

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9684

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USLOSACLANT

CINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T USNATO 0325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, OR, XF, XG, XI

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF REOPENING THE SUEZ
CANAL

REF: A. STATE 013460 (NOTAL);

? . USNATO 0211 (NOTAL)

C. STATE 008220

1. AT JANUARY 21 POLADS MEETINGON SUEZ CANAL STUDY, CHAIR-
MAN (MUWIS) NOTED THRE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED THUS
FEA: THE INDEPNENT EXPERTS STUDY FURNISHED BY THE FRG GCSEE
REF B); UK PAPER DATD JANUARY 20 (SEPTTEL); AND TH US CONTRIBUTION
(RF A). IN PRSENTING BRITISH PAPER, UK RP (MARGETSON) NOTED
IT CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS BECAUSE UK NLS ITS
PREVIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO NTO-WIDE NT ON SOVIET PRESENC IN
INDIAN OCEAN AREA (SEE AS(74)166 OF NOVEMBER 15, 1974) IS
SUFFICINT ON THE MILITARY SIDE. US REP (LEDOGAR)

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SAID US PAPER WAS NOT INTNDED TO PREJUDGE NORMAT OF
POLADS STUDY BY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A CONTRIBUTION WHICH
CAN BE DRAWN UPON TO FLESH OUT THE FORMAT WHICH EMERGES
WHEN ALL NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AR RECEIVED.

2. FRENCH REP GKBEAUCHATAUD) SAID HE HAD RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE MATERIAL FROM PARIS BUT WISHED TO STUDY THE US PAPER BEFORE ORGANIZING THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION. IMS REP (COLONEL HEFLIN-US) PROMISED NATO/IMS INPUT BEFORE NXT POLADS MTING. CHAIRMAN URGED OTHR DELEGATIONS TO EXPEDITE THERE CONTRIBUTIONS, AND REQUESTED DELEGATIONS BE PREPARED TO COMMENT AT JANUARY 28 POLADS ON PAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN TABLED.

3. COMMENT: MISSION WILL CONTINUE TRYING TO INDUCE FRENCH, GREEK AND OTHER PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONSULTATION. HEAVY EMPHASIS IN UK PAPER ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF STUDY WAS DISAPPOINTMENT TO FRENCH. MISSION AND INTERNATIONAL STAFF CONTINUE TO BELIEVE WIDEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY WILL BE FACILITATED IF POLADS CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION AT LEAST INITIALLY ON STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF CANAL REOPENING IN TERMS OF SOVIET NAVAL AND MERCHANT MARINE FLEXIBILITY. THUS, PNDING MORE CLOSELY FOCUSED OUTLINE, MISSION DOES NOT RECOMMEND ADDITIONAL US CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME. ND COMMENT.

4. ACTION: WOULD APPRECIAT DEPARTMENT COMMENTS ON UK AND FRG PAPERS. BRUCE.

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To: STATE
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